

Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1848.

No. 359

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Extracts from the Business Proceedings.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1848.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. COBB, of Georgia, it was ordered that when the House adjourn it will adjourn to meet on Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

The following Senate bill lying on the Speaker's table was taken up, read a first and second time, and referred to appropriate committees:

For the relief of Benjamin G. Osborne.

For the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers, soldiers, and sailors of the brig of War Seneca.

For the relief of Cook, Anthony, Michon, and others.

For the relief of Wm. H. Prentiss.

For the relief of Anna J. Hasser.

For the relief of Wm. Parmenter.

For the relief of David Currier.

Concerning Spanish coin.

Authorizing the testing of registers to the Spanish steamships Trinitate and Centro for a limited time.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a letter from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of War, showing the result of the settlement required by the laws of 1846, with the Chickasaw and the appropriations required to carry into effect the provisions of that treaty.

The House, on motion, resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the private calendar. (Mr. Root in the chair.)

The first bill on the calendar was the bill of the Senate to provide for the purchase of the lands of the late James Madison, former President of the United States.

Mr. STEPHENS moved that the bill be laid aside to be reported to the House.

Mr. BOWLIN objected to this as a public bill, and therefore improperly on the private calendar.

The CHAIRMAN overruled the objection.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, objected to the provision of the bill which provided trustees for Mrs. Madison, in whose twenty thousand dollars of the bill to be appropriated by this bill should be paid for her use. If any citizen of this District required guardians or trustees he apprehended the courts of the District were fully competent to appoint them.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, objected to this bill, as the establishment of a pension system which was inconsistent with the principles of this republic. This bill proposed to give to Mrs. Madison \$5,000, and to invest in the name of trustees that sum of \$50,000, the annually accruing interest of which such trustees were to pay to her, but the principal was placed beyond her control, except by will or devise, by which means she might bequeath it to whomsoever she pleased. It was alleged that this sum was to be paid for the papers of the late President James Madison. He proceeded to show that Congress had heretofore bought and paid for the papers of James Madison, and that this was a mere pretext for the purpose of giving Mrs. Madison a donation for her lifetime and a bequest to some other person, for aught he knew to come prodigal on this reputable individual, at her death. He reminded the House of the strenuous opposition given on this floor to the bill to provide a pension for Mary Brown, the widow and mother of a Revolutionary soldier, and he reminded the House of the country, and of the countless petitions for such poor widows who sought a poor pittance to sustain them for the remnant of their days, made desolate by the sacrifice of their natural protectors on the altar of the country. James Madison was living in comfort in the receipt of \$20,000 per annum while the husbands of these petitioning widows were serving on the battlefield, and he reminded the House of the fact that the House had refused to grant a pension to the widow of a Revolutionary soldier, and he reminded the House of the fact that the public were as important as, yet much more important than, reasoning and philosophy. He saw no reason to prefer Mrs. Madison to the widows to whom he had referred.

Mr. BOWLIN, Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, and the CHAIRMAN entered into some conversation as to a point of order.

Mr. McDOWELL made a short statement of fact to show that this was an equitable payment for papers sold to this Government, and that the gentleman from Tennessee was mistaken in supposing that these were the papers which had been heretofore paid for. They were a totally different and distinct series.

Mr. JOHNSON quoted from a published document to show that he was not mistaken.

Mr. STEPHENS proceeded to show what the papers really were, to sustain the position of the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. McDOWELL,) that the gentleman from Tennessee was mistaken.

Mr. JOHNSON continued his argument to sustain his position.

Mr. BAYLY replied.

Mr. COLLAMER said one referred to the Article of the Confederation and the other set of papers to the debate on the constitution, and therefore they were totally distinct.

Mr. McDOWELL defended the bill, arguing that these works were of great national interest and the nation should be paid for them.

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1848.

IN SENATE.

Mr. NILES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a bill for the relief of Trick & Hubbard.

Mr. NILES called up a resolution, submitted by him on the 4th instant, which was read as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to the Senate such information as may be in the Treasury Department in regard to the manner in which the interest of the public debt has been paid at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other places in which the interest on the public debt is paid, and particularly that be inform the Senate whether in any instance payment has been made in any other medium than gold or silver.

Mr. N. rose to say that the resolution had been offered in consequence of information derived from a friend to the effect that at least in one of the cities named, there had been a violation of the fundamental principles of the Treasury act. He had learned that one of the Sub-treasurers, instead of disbursing the money in the constitutional currency of the country, had been in the habit of depositing the money to the credit of some bank, and that the money was being paid out in the form of bank notes, which he had drawn checks in the ordinary way. He desired to ascertain if any such practice had prevailed, for if it had it was in direct violation of the law. Having been one of the earliest and most steadfast friends of the measure, he desired that the facts might be ascertained.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, was understood to put it to the Senate that the Committee (Mr. Niles) whether these charges should be referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, or to the more direct of responsible persons. If charged after charges were to be made, and called that other institutions for facts for political effect, it must be obvious how embarrassing it would be, and how much time it must necessarily consume. If the Senator had evidence from a responsible source, he should not shrink from any inquiry; but he did not object to the introduction of such resolutions on other than the strongest testimony.

Mr. NILES replied, in effect, that he had stated when he called up the resolution that it was offered from information derived from a high private source, and he wished authentic knowledge as to the fact. He never supposed for a moment that the affair was connected with the Secretary. He believed the information had come to the Secretary on the same day or at least the day after it had reached him. (Mr. NILES.) He thought it rather a strange position to assume that an inquiry into an alleged violation of the law should not be made. If the facts were as represented, not only had there been a violation of the spirit, but of the express letter of the act, and he held that it ought to be inquired into, and he would go forward and say, out to be published.

Mr. DAVIS made a brief reply, which was not distinctly heard, and, after a rejoinder from Mr. NILES, the resolution was adopted.

The several bills received from the House of Representatives were then read a first and second time by their titles. And the Senate adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. WICK, previous notice having been given, obtained leave and introduced a bill to prohibit the introduction of slaves into the District of Columbia.

Mr. THOMPSON, of Mississippi, moved to lay the bill on the table, on which the yeas and nays were asked and ordered.

Mr. BURT said it was evident that the seats on one (the Democratic) side of this hall were almost entirely unoccupied. He trusted there was no disposition on the other, in the absence of members, to proceed with business, especially with the subject of the description of this bill.

Mr. SCHENCK, of New York, the gentleman from South Carolina rose to move to adjourn.

Mr. BURT replied that was the motion he was going to submit himself, in consideration that there were but 120 members present. He moved that the House adjourn.

The House accordingly adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1848.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. COCKE, leave was given for the withdrawal of the papers in the case of Samuel F. Reed, of Tennessee.

The House, on motion of Mr. ROCKWELL, of Connecticut, resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the private calendar. (Mr. Root in the chair.)

The first bill on the calendar was the bill of the Senate to provide for the purchase of the lands of the late James Madison, former President of the United States.

Mr. STEPHENS moved that the bill be laid aside to be reported to the House.

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FRANCE.

Whilst waiting for the particulars of the later intelligence from Europe by the Boston steam packet, (which we shall receive to-day and give to our readers to-morrow,) we are glad to be able to furnish our readers the following additional extracts from the Paris Correspondence for LITTELL'S "Living Age," from which they will obtain a clear idea of the course of affairs in France since our last quotations from the same Correspondence:

PARIS, APRIL 19, 1848.

It is an inquiry of some interest how the revolution of February has affected letters and the drama in Paris. The feuilletons of some of the journals have been occupied with it, and the common opinion appears to lean unfavorably. A citizen *Thore*, however, in the *Constitutionnel*, predicts a wonderful improvement; but his own style and vein are not the best symptoms. Here you have a sample. "The republic will be the new Messiah that must accomplish all the strange prophecies of the fathers and the martyrs of popular religion. In twenty years our men will be braver and more intelligent, our women handsomer and stronger, and the crimes against a striking deterioration of the drama; all stage business is metamorphosed, and the coarsest tastes, slighter some time, except for the gratification of the boxes are empty. Ninety thousand persons are reckoned to attend the clubs every evening; thus the usual pit audiences are greatly thinned. Both primary and secondary performers meditate emigration. Some eight or ten have applied to the American Consulate to learn whether they could succeed in the United States. On the 16th instant, at the important theatre, the *Ambigu Comique*—grand melo drama, music, and ballet—just as the curtain should have risen, the principal director stepped forward and with a dismal aspect announced that his choruses and *figurants* refused to act until he paid them the fortnight's salary due, which was wholly out of his power. Upstart—the rebellious singers and dancers took to flight. The recovery of the money paid for places was a sequel of two days' clamor and negotiation.

The annual exhibition of the works of living French artists is open at the Louvre. A jury appointed by the Government has hitherto determined the selection among five thousand pictures on the average. This year the jury were overtaken by the revolution; they thought themselves obliged to proceed on the maxims hitherto their own—liberty, equality, and fraternity; perhaps they were more excited or frightened for discrimination. As many pictures as the walls could receive were dispatched *petit mot* to the galleries. The distribution, or rather juxtaposition, was quite as confused and disorderly. On my visit I felt inclined to think the revolution, so grotesque in the display; even the people felt this effect, so that it became necessary to withdraw the most ludicrous or monstrous drolls, lest rougher hands than those of the attendants should redress the grievance. There are a few excellent portraits; most of the large display are terribly bad; the small or cabinet pictures are the least exceptionable; the historical, legendary, novelist, mere fancy or picturesque, abound, some well-imagined and executed; there are fine landscape-pieces in which, by the way, the French school makes progress. Not a few of what are styled the *portrait-landscapes* indicate reform in coloring; fidelity to the hues of nature, for which it has been the ordinary sin of the French naturalist-painter to substitute extravagant tints, and masses of light and shade, which no eye of the body has ever beheld. The fantastic subjects, and those of mere effect, betray more distemperance of the taste than they indicate esthetic refinement. *La Reue des Deux Mondes* observes: "On the whole, every amateur, when he leaves the Louvre, complains the exhibition as *delectable*." A considerable reduction must take place in the list of artists; they can no longer live by their trade; the most skillful are threatened with starvation; they, too, would betake themselves to America, if the Americans could encourage them to incur the risk. Who can expect to see pictures and statues when the family plate of marshals and ex-peers and ex-nobility stockholders is heaped at the mint to be exchanged for necessities?"

All the former glittering stars in the fashionable firmament all the celebrities in the political sphere, have sunk under the horizon. The extent and depth in which, as the French say, *existences* are displaced, curtailed, or subverted, transcend all that any other than an old resident in Paris could conceive. For ten years I had been industriously enlarging and culing a French acquaintance, which formed at last, for literature, politics, science, and mere social converse, the very circle which I coveted. On no day since the revolution would it have been possible for me to assemble in the evening eight or ten of the hundred and fifty of the two sexes. I have been able to see twenty or more in private visits; all smitten—altered; nearly every one admitting that royalty was beyond restoration, yet in despair as regards the future of France, or their own public life, or lawful and fixed personal aims.

At daybreak yesterday we had a second universal alarm and splendid array of protection. Between three and four A. M. it was reported that the communists, now the general term for the lowest and fiercest rabble, had attacked several posts of the National Guards, marshalled strong bands, and concerted the reduction of the Hotel de Ville. The new guard were the first to take the field; they scoured the streets and boulevards, dispersed various groups of the assailants, made some prisoners, and retired for rest to their barracks as soon as the old guard came forth, which was by six o'clock—upwards of a hundred thousand—within an hour after the beating of the *rappel*. Multitudes of the populace went to the offices of the mayors to ask arms, but, being of suspicious aspect, were repelled; to the good men and true ammunition was distributed at their several public rendezvous. At the *barriere de la Villette* a wagon was seized, endeavoring to enter clandestinely, with eight hundred muskets. Blanqui and his club held a secret session on Sunday last, which quickened the vigilance of the authorities. You must read a report of the journal, the *Union*, of a sitting of that club to understand how the public peace might or may be disturbed. A fellow who ventured to cry *Down with the republic!* was first trampled under foot and then dragged to the police-prison; another, preaching *communism*, escaped from being drowned in the Seine by the intervention of popular officers. A man on horseback, with a drawn sabre in one hand and a proclamation in the other, and followed by a band armed to the teeth, fell into the hands of a detachment of the new guard, who threw him and his suite into *durance* vile. All the posts were doubled, and additions made to the imposing force in and about the prefecture of police. The commander-in-chief of the guards and the staff paraded every where, haranguing the several corps as they reviewed or passed them. It was, altogether, a new manifestation of a good spirit, encouraging for all the respectable world, but, as one of our disaffected editors exclaims, "A fine security, indeed, which requires that a hundred and fifty thousand men be constantly on the alert to defend it!" You will see that a civil war in this capital may break out from day to day, though we can scarcely doubt that the desperadoes and freebooters and the dupes of the fanatical and profligate demagogues will succumb. The Provisional Government has, with no slight skill and exertion, succeeded in winning the journeyman artisans and common laborers, comprising them in the compact and equipped masses of the guards and enlisting their pride as protectors of order and property. The worst, and a large portion of their antagonists, consists of adventurers and malefactors of every description lured from the interior by the chances of riot and plunder. Another achievement of the Government serves to lessen distrust. The new guards, who at first cried out against the return of regular troops to Paris, now favor the measure, under the influence. They wish to be relieved, in part, from a perpetual hard duty; besides, they are to fraternize on a footing of equality, if not of concension.

Gen. Changarnier has been here for two days, and it is believed that he accepts the place of commander of the garrison.

This news, and the transactions of the morning, and the arrival of portions of regiments in the environs, who come for the celebration of to-morrow, caused the funds to rise in the afternoon on the exchanges. It was stated, however, that sharp alterations had been overheard between members of the Provisional Government. The journals understood to be the organs of three of them respectively—Ledru Rollin, Blanc, and Flocon—deny that any real conspiracies or hostile attempts have occurred; they intimate that the whole hubbub is a contrivance of Lamartine and two of his colleagues (ac-complis) to create a power superior to that of the duly energetic and watchful votaries and guardians of the revolution and the republic. An open rupture in the Government might prove a dangerous or severe shock. The *National* of this morning says: "Civil war, perhaps, and again admonishes the *anarchists*, whether monarchist or socialist, to beware. It adds that the inopportune or premature application of theories of social regeneration would be *anarchy*." It calls for the immediate dismissal of all the ex-deputies that voted for the Pritchard indemnity who still hold high public functions, such as those of judges, generals, superior law officers, &c. The number is a hundred and